IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system for scheduling meetings using plural heterogeneous resources, the system comprising:

a user interface operable to accept meeting constraints;

a resource properties database having plural heterogeneous resources other than meeting attendees and meeting locations, each resource having associated properties;

a scheduled events database storing schedules for the heterogeneous resources;

a configuration engine interfaced with the user interface and resource properties database, the configuration engine operable to apply the meeting constraints and the resource properties to priority rules that generate an ordered list of heterogeneous resource sets, each set having a valid configuration that satisfies the meeting constraints; and

an availability engine interfaced with the configuration engine and the scheduled events database, the availability engine operable to select heterogeneous resources from the ordered list based on the scheduled availability of the resources,

wherein the availability engine is further operable to:

identify resources of the priority list that are unavailable to satisfy meeting constraints due to a scheduled use; and

monitor the unavailable resources for subsequent availability to satisfy the meeting constraints.

Claim 2 (Original): The system of Claim 1 wherein the configuration engine is further operable to order the list of heterogeneous resources according to a cost function, the list ordered with the greatest priority given to the set of heterogeneous resources having the least cost to satisfy the meeting constraints.

Claim 3 (Original): The system of Claim 2 wherein the configuration engine cost function adjusts to user-selected weights for one or more meeting constraints.

Claim 4 (Original): The system of Claim 3 wherein the user-selected weights comprise one or more of meeting timing, capacity and locality.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original): The system of Claim 1 further comprising an access controller interfaced with the availability engine and the resource properties database, the access controller operable to restrict scheduling of one or more resources having limited access properties.

Claim 7 (Original): The system of Claim 6 wherein the limited access property comprises an authorization code to exceed a predetermined cost associated with resource use.

Claim 8 (Original): The system of Claim 6 wherein the access controller is further operable to override a scheduled use of a resource to satisfy meeting constraints having a predetermined priority.

Claim 9 (Original): The system of Claim 6 further comprising a reschedule engine operable to automatically reschedule overridden scheduled uses.

Claim 10 (Original): The system of Claim 6 further comprising a notification engine interfaced with the availability and reschedule engines, the notification engine operable to automatically notify attendees of a meeting scheduled according to a set of resources of the ordered list and to automatically notify attendees of rescheduling.

Claim 11 (Original): The system of Claim 1 further comprising a resource engine interfaced with the scheduled events database and the heterogeneous resources, the resource engine operable to initiate, terminate and track use of the heterogeneous resources in compliance with the schedule.

Claim 12 (Original): The system of Claim 1 wherein the heterogeneous resources comprise at least video conference resources, audio conference resources and network resources.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for scheduling meetings using plural heterogeneous resources, the method comprising:

identifying scheduling constraints associated with the meeting;

ordering in priority a list of plural sets of candidate heterogeneous resources other than meeting attendees and meeting locations, each set having a valid configuration that satisfies the scheduling constraints;

selecting a set of heterogeneous resources from the ordered list;

scheduling the heterogeneous resources to support the meeting;

automatically notifying attendees of the schedule;

automatically initiating one or more of the heterogeneous resources according to the schedule,

limiting access to predetermined heterogeneous resources according to one or more required authorizations.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of Claim 13 further comprising:

identifying one or more biasing weights associated with one or more scheduling constraints; and

ordering the priority list according to the biasing weights.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of Claim 14 wherein ordering further comprises:

estimating a cost associated with each set of heterogeneous resources; and

providing greater priority to sets having smaller costs.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of Claim 13 wherein automatically notifying attendees further comprises:

associating one or notification parameters with each attendee; and

selecting one or more notification medium for each attendee based on the notification parameters associated with the attendee.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of Claim 16 wherein the notification medium comprises a telephone sending a computer generated voice reminder.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of Claim 17 wherein the notification parameter comprises a predetermined quantification of user forgetfulness and the notification further comprises cell phone call within a predetermined time of the scheduled meeting.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the heterogeneous resources comprise at least video conference resources, audio conference resources and network resources.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A system for scheduling meetings using plural heterogeneous resources, the system comprising:

a user interface operable to accept meeting constraints;

a resource properties database having plural heterogeneous resources other than meeting attendees and meeting locations, each resource having associated properties;

a scheduled events database storing schedules for the heterogeneous resources;

a configuration engine interfaced with the user interface and resource properties database, the configuration engine operable to apply the meeting constraints and the resource properties to priority rules that generate an ordered list of heterogeneous resource sets, each set having a valid configuration that satisfies the meeting constraints; and

an availability engine interfaced with the configuration engine and the scheduled events database, the availability engine operable to select heterogeneous resources from the ordered list based on the scheduled availability of the resources;

an access controller interfaced with the availability engine and the resource properties database, the access controller operable to restrict scheduling of one or more resources having limited access properties

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 wherein the configuration engine is further operable to order the list of heterogeneous resources according to a cost

function, the list ordered with the greatest priority given to the set of heterogeneous resources having the least cost to satisfy the meeting constraints.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 wherein the configuration engine cost function adjusts to user-selected weights for one or more meeting constraints.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 23 wherein the user-selected weights comprise one or more of meeting timing, capacity and locality.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 wherein the availability engine is further operable to:

identify resources of the priority list that are unavailable to satisfy meeting constraints due to a scheduled use; and

monitor the unavailable resources for subsequent availability to satisfy the meeting constraints.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 wherein the limited access property comprises an authorization code to exceed a predetermined cost associated with resource use.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 wherein the access controller is further operable to override a scheduled use of a resource to satisfy meeting constraints having a predetermined priority.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 further comprising a reschedule engine operable to automatically reschedule overridden scheduled uses.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 further comprising a notification engine interfaced with the availability and reschedule engines, the notification engine operable to automatically notify attendees of a meeting scheduled according to a set of resources of the ordered list and to automatically notify attendees of rescheduling.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 further comprising a resource engine interfaced with the scheduled events database and the heterogeneous resources, the resource engine operable to initiate, terminate and track use of the heterogeneous resources in compliance with the schedule.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 21 wherein the heterogeneous resources comprise at least video conference resources, audio conference resources and network resources.